

RESOLUTION 13-___

AUTHORIZING APPLICATION FOR A COOPERATIVE WATERSHED MANAGEMENT GRANT FROM THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

WHEREAS, management, control and preservation of water resources is a matter of major concern for the sustainability of the ecology and economic development of Cochise County; and

WHEREAS, numerous public, quasi-public and private non-profit organizations now exist in Cochise County, with shared concern for the conservation of local water resources, but with limited resources to coordinate efforts; and

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Reclamation of the U.S. Department of the Interior has announced, through its WaterSMART program, the availability of grant funds of up to \$100,000 per project for projects of up to two years' duration, with no required local matching funds, for states, Indian tribes, irrigation districts, water districts or other organizations with water or power delivery authority located in the Western states, to include Arizona, for the purpose of developing collaborative conservation efforts in the management of local watersheds to improve water quality and ecological resilience, conserve water, and reduce conflicts over rights thereto; and

WHEREAS, the County of Cochise, the Department of Army – Fort Huachuca, the Upper San Pedro Partnership, the Cochise Water Project, the Coronado Resource Conservation & Development Area Inc., the Hereford Natural Resource Conservation District, the Arizona Department of Water Resources, the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality have all agreed to participate in formation of a watershed group to promote sustainable use of local watershed water resources and coordinate efforts to improve water conservation and quality and reduce conflicts over access to water resources, with the ultimate goal of developing a comprehensive watershed restoration plan that would be mutually beneficial to all stakeholders; and

WHEREAS, the goals of the watershed group that would be created under this grant would be consistent with and in furtherance of the Cochise County Strategic Plan 2011-2015, regarding water usage, established in April 2011, under which the County seeks to: “Sustain an adequate, safe water supply through water conservation measures; incentive programs; education; conservation and enhancement of natural recharge areas; and cooperative, multi-jurisdictional planning”; and

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The Federal Bureau Of Reclamation**

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WHEREAS, past efforts by various public interest organizations in the County to form a comprehensive water resources management plan for the watershed have failed for lack of time and resources to develop such a plan; and

WHEREAS, it is anticipated that with the assistance of grant funding to establish a working watershed group, duplication of efforts by different organizations with similar goals may be reduced, greater consensus may be reached on optimal ways to improve water conservation, and initiatives undertaken to preserve water resources may proceed with greater speed and effect,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Cochise County Board of Supervisors hereby authorizes staff to take any such actions as are necessary to apply for WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program Grant funding from the Bureau of Reclamation of the U.S. Department of the Interior for a project of up to two years' duration to form a watershed group to develop a comprehensive watershed restoration plan to promote sustainable use of local watershed water resources, coordinate efforts to improve water conservation and quality and reduce conflicts over access to water resources in Cochise County.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of Cochise County, Arizona, this _____ day of June, 2013.

Ann English, Chair
Cochise County Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Clerk of the Board

Adam Ambrose
Civil Deputy County Attorney